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To: Examiner Zheng, L.
Firm: Patent and Trademark Office
Fax Number: 571-273-8300
Client Number: 40815.398
Pages: 7
(including cover)

Comments: **OFFICIAL OFFICIAL OFFICIAL**
Application of

Applicants	: Phelps et al.
Serial No.	: 10/625,915
Filed	: July 23, 2003
Title	: NON-TOXIC CORROSION-PROTECTION CONVERSION COATS BASED ON RARE EARTH ELEMENTS
Docket	: UVD 0280 IA / UD 268
Examiner	: Zheng, L.
Art Unit	: 1742
Confirmation No.	: 3052

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2005

Patricia L. Prior
Patricia L. Prior - Attorney Reg. No. 3,758

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on September 30, 2005.

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction between allegedly distinct inventions identified by the Examiner as Group I (claims 1-49, and 163), said to be drawn to a corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating; Group II (claims 50-82 and 164), said to be drawn to a method of making a corrosion inhibiting sealing bath; Group III (claims 83-131 and 165), said to be drawn to a method of applying a corrosion inhibiting sealing bath; and Group IV (claims 132-162 and 166) said to be drawn to a corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating. Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-49 and 163) without traverse.

Applicants note that Group III, claims 83-131 and 165, is drawn to a method of applying a corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating, not a method of applying a corrosion-

Serial No. 10/625,915
Docket No. UVD 0280 IA / UD 268

inhibiting sealing bath. Also, Group IV is drawn to a corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating bath, not a corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating.

Claims 11-31 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising inorganic valence stabilizers and organic valence stabilizers. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, inorganic valence stabilizers, claims 11-13, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 38-42 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising cationic solubility control agents and anionic solubility control agents. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, cationic solubility control agents, claims 38-40, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 45-48 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising active UV blockers, passive UV blockers, and brighteners. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, active UV blockers, claims 45-46, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 50, 52, 58-60, and 164 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising cerium sources, praseodymium sources, and terbium sources. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, cerium sources, claims 50, 52, 58, and 164, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election

Serial No. 10/625,915
Docket No. UVD 0280 IA / UD 268

requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 63-67 and 76-77 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising fluorides, chlorides, bromides, acidic species, and hydroxides. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, fluorides, claims 63-65 and 76, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 69-73 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising cationic solubility control agents and anionic solubility control agents. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, cationic solubility control agents, claims 69-71, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 83, 89, 97-99, and 165 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising cerium sources, praseodymium sources, and terbium sources. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, cerium sources, claims 83, 89, 97, and 165, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 107-111, and 125-126 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising fluorides, chlorides, bromides, acidic species, and hydroxides. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, fluorides, claims 107-109, and 125, for initial

Serial No. 10/625,915
Docket No. UVD 0280 IA / UD 268

prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 118-122 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising cationic solubility control agents and anionic solubility control agents. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, cationic solubility control agents, claims 118-120, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 132-133, 138-140, and 166 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising cerium sources, praseodymium sources, and terbium sources. The citation of claim 133 is believed to be in error because it claims the solvent. It is believed that claim 134 was intended. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, cerium sources, claims 132, 134, 138, and 166, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Claims 142-146 and 156-157 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising fluorides, chlorides, bromides, acidic species, and hydroxides. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, fluorides, claims 142-144, and 156, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Serial No. 10/625,915
Docket No. UVD 0280 IA / UD 268

Claims 149-153 are said to be generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising cationic solubility control agents and anionic solubility control agents. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, cationic solubility control agents, claims 149-151, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Applicants have elected species for each of the species elections in the belief that is what the examiner was seeking. In the event that the examiner wanted only a single election, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, inorganic valence stabilizers, claims 11-13, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully traverse the present species election requirement because upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. *See* 37 CFR §1.141.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to

Serial No. 10/625,915
Docket No. UVD 0280 IA / UD 268

discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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